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12 September 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Procurement

FROM : Chief, Machine Division, OCD

SUBJECT : Recommendation for Purchase of Polaroid Copy-maker Kits.

1. Approximately one year ago a requirement for a rapid copying method of materials found in other offices of the government as well as in offices of private concerns was brought to the attention of this Division for solution. A device to accomplish this would have to be portable and of light weight and simple to operate, if possible. The first thoughts were toward the use of 35mm photographic equipment, however, after discussing it with Liaison Division of OCD, who were the people principally interested in obtaining the portable copying equipment, it was decided that 35mm equipment is a bit complicated for the average person to operate. Also, the light source requirements would make it mandatory that a person carry a fairly complicated array of lights along on each job, therefore, a simpler, more fool proof solution was sought. A number of methods other than the use of 35mm photographic equipment was investigated. Methods such as the use of Copy Roll made by Fairchild Camera Corporation, the Photograph made by Remington Rand, a modified version of Xerography a product of the Haloid Company, were all investigated and found to be not too portable in some cases and impracticable in other cases from the stand point of easy or ready use.

2. An idea was formulated to investigate the possibilities of Polaroid Land cameras. It was suggested by this Division that the Polaroid Company be approached to see if they would be willing to undertake the construction of a portable Polaroid Land camera copying device for use in copying, principally, documentary material. In February of 1951, _____ of this Division, went to the Polaroid Land Company and presented our ideas for a Polaroid Land copying device. Mr. _____ of the Polaroid Land Company thought the idea was a good one and agreed to let us have a model of what they would come up with in a short period of time. In August of this year the model was procured and was found to be quite satisfactory for the job at hand.

3. The Polaroid copy-maker kit consists of a luggage-like case approximately the size of a brief case which contains a circular fluorescent lamp light source and a stand having concentric rectangles drawn upon it so that when a letter is placed on the stand the number of the concentric rectangle which can still be seen indicates where the table, which is adjustable, should be set according to a scale on the front of the

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copy maker. On this scale there is indicated which one of the two snap-on lenses should be used as well as the focal length to which the camera should be set. Exposures are always made at stop #8 and for eight seconds. Prints, of course, are produced within one minute so that the user can immediately determine that he has made a good shot and has obtained the copy he set out to get. Upon return to the agency, he can either have a typist reproduce the copy onto paper or if the signatures or a letterhead on a letter copied in this fashion are valuable, intelligence wise, he can send it to the Photographic Unit and have photo copies enlarged from the $3\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ print produced by the Polaroid Land camera. The advantages of this device of course, are that the user knows when he leaves the place at which he has to copy the material, just exactly what he has. It is extremely portable and is very simple and fool proof in its operation.

4. The device has been shown to a considerable number of persons in OCD, OCI, OSO, ORR and Services and has been very well received, in fact, a total of thirteen complete devices have been requested. The following offices have requested the following devices in the quantities shown.

OCI	- 1
Services	- 2
OCD	- 5
OSO	- 4

5. Based on the reception which has been given this device by all who have seen it thus far in the agency, it is recommended that the Polaroid Land copy maker be made a stock item with Mr. [] group, in fact, rather than order only a sufficient quantity to fill the above orders, it would be well to order an additional dozen, inasmuch as it is believed that as soon as others see this device they too will desire to have it. It is thought that a copy device such as this will indeed be a great asset to the agency.

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/s/

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